C 16/989

background notes

Canada

United States Department of State
Bureau of Public Affairs

June 1989

Official Name:
Canada

PROFILE

Geography

Area: 9.97 million sq. km. (3.8 million sq. mi.); second largest country in the world. **Cities:** *Capital*—Ottawa (pop. 853,000). *Other cities*—Toronto (3.5 million), Montreal (2.9 million), Vancouver (1.4 million). **Terrain:** Varied. **Climate:** Temperate to arctic.

People

Nationality: *Noun and adjective*—Canadian(s). **Population** (1988): 26.1 million. **Annual growth rate** (1987–88): 1.2%. **Ethnic groups:** British 25%, French 24%, European 16%, indigenous Indian and Eskimo 1.5%, mixed background 28%. **Religions:** Roman Catholic 47%, United Church 16%, Anglican 10%. **Languages:** English, French. *Literacy*—99% of population aged 15 and over have at least a ninth grade education. **Health:** *Infant mortality rate*—7.3/1,000 (U.S.=11.2/1,000). *Life expectancy*—73 yrs. males, 80 yrs. females. **Work force** (13.3 million, 1988): *Agriculture*—0.4 million. *Manufacturing*—2.1 million. *Trade*—2.2 million. *Community/business/personal service*—4.1 million. *Public administration*—0.8 million.

Government

Type: Confederation with parliamentary democracy. **Independence:** July 1, 1867. **Constitution:** Amended British North America Act patriated to Canada in 1982, charter of rights, and unwritten custom.

Branches: *Executive*—Queen Elizabeth II (chief of state, represented by a governor general), prime minister (head of government), cabinet. *Legislative*—bicameral parliament (104-member Senate, 295-member House of Commons). *Judicial*—Supreme Court.

Political parties: Progressive Conservative, Liberal, New Democratic, Reform, Social Credit.

Suffrage: Universal over 18.

Government budget (FY 1984–85): *Expenditures*—C$125.5 billion. *Revenues*—C$97.5 billion. *Deficit*—C$28.0 billion.

Defense: 2% of GNP.

Subdivisions: 10 provinces, 2 territories.

Flag: A red maple leaf on a white background flanked by vertical red bands.

Economy

GDP (1988): $486.3 billion. **Annual real GDP growth rate:** 4.5%. **Per capita GDP** (1988): $18,707.

Natural resources: Metals and minerals, fish, forests, wildlife.

Agriculture: *Products*—wheat, livestock and meat, feedgrains, oilseeds, dairy products, tobacco, fruits, vegetables.

Industry: *Types*—motor vehicles and parts, fish and forest products, petroleum and natural gas, processed and unprocessed minerals.

Trade (1988): *Exports*—$111.4 billion: motor vehicles and parts, lumber, woodpulp and newsprint, crude and fabricated metals, natural gas, crude petroleum, wheat. *Partners*—U.S. 74%, EC 18%, Japan 5%. *Imports*—$103.6 billion: motor vehicles and parts, industrial machinery, crude petroleum, chemicals, agricultural machinery. *Partners*—U.S. 69%, EC 8%, Japan 6%.

Official exchange rate (floating, average closing rate for 1988): C$1=U.S. ¢81.24.

Fiscal year: April 1–March 31.

Development assistance (FY 1987–88): $2 billion or 0.4% of GDP.

Membership in International Organizations

UN, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), North Atlantic Fisheries Organization, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Commonwealth, La Francophonie, Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation, International Energy Agency (IEA), INTELSAT.

S1.123:

Canada
International boundary
National capital
Railroad
Road
Province boundary
International airport
0 500 Kilometers
0 500 Miles
U.S.S.R.
Arctic Ocean
United States
Greenland (Denmark)
Iceland
Baffin Bay
Davis Strait
Hudson Bay
Pacific Ocean
Atlantic Ocean
United States
Mexico
Yukon
Fairbanks
Whitehorse
Victoria Island
Great Bear Lake
Great Slave Lake
Baffin Island
Ellesmere Island
Thule
Godthab
Churchill
Peace
Yellowknife
Prince Rupert
Edmonton
Calgary
Saskatoon
Regina
Lake Winnipeg
Winnipeg
Vancouver
Victoria
Seattle
Columbia
Schefferville
Goose Bay
Newfoundland
Gander
St Johns
Charlottetown
Sydney
Halifax
Quebec
Montreal
Ottawa
Toronto
Lake Ontario
Boston
New York
Washington
Sault Ste. Marie
L. Superior
L. Michigan
Huron
Erie
Detroit
Chicago
Saint Louis
Missouri
Ohio
Mississippi
YUKON
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
BRITISH COLUMBIA
ALBERTA
SASKATCHEWAN
MANITOBA
ONTARIO
QUEBEC
NEWFOUNDLAND

GEOGRAPHY

Canada is more than 9.9 million square kilometers (3.97 million sq. mi.) in area and is the second largest country in the world. Canada shares an 8,892-kilometer (5,335-mi.) border with the United States, unfortified for more than a century. There are five major geographic regions.

- The Appalachian region encompasses the Atlantic Provinces and part of southeastern Quebec and consists of rounded hills and rolling plains.
- The St. Lawrence lowlands consist of fertile, low-lying plains bordering the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River in southern Quebec and Ontario.
- The Canadian Shield is an area of pre-Cambrian rock extending from Labrador to the Arctic islands and covering most of eastern and central Canada. The northern area of the Shield is a moss-covered, treeless plain with permanently frozen subsoil. The Shield is thickly forested in the south.
- The interior plains extend from the U.S. border to the Arctic Ocean. In the south, they are unforested and form the breadbasket of Canada. North of the prairies, the plains are forested and contain large deposits of oil, gas, and potash.
- The Cordilleran region is a strip of mountainous terrain about 800 kilometers (500 mi.) wide that includes most of British Columbia, the Yukon, and part of western Alberta.

The climate varies greatly, from arctic to mild, but Canada may be described generally as having moderate summers and long, cold winters.

PEOPLE

Of Canada's 26.1 million people, 80% live within 160 kilometers (100 mi.) of the U.S. border, and half of the population lives in the southeastern part of the country near the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River. Yet, Canadians and U.S. citizens are not as similar as casual observers frequently assume. The Canadian character and outlook have been forged from a distinctive historical and social background.

Canada's more than 6 million French-speaking citizens are primarily descendants of colonists who settled the country three centuries ago. The English-speaking community has been built up mostly by immigration from the United Kingdom. The largest influx from the

View of Roger's Pass on Mount Abbot.

An Indian artist, member of the Hazelton band, paints designs on a wooden box.

United States occurred during the American Revolution when thousands of "Empire Loyalists" fled to Canada.

Canadians of neither British nor French origin are generally of German, Ukrainian, Scandinavian, Italian, Dutch, Polish, indigenous Indian, or Eskimo (Inuit) origin.

Cultural Achievements

Canadian culture has been shaped by four major influences: Canada's multicultural heritage; English/French bilingualism; sustained government funding for artistic and literary pursuits; and the abundance and availability of American cultural production. Canadians view their country not as a melting pot but rather as a cultural mosaic. Inuit, Indian nations, Francophones, Anglophones, and immigrant groups have all sought to maintain their unique cultural identities. Such efforts have been encouraged by extensive government funding of the arts. After the Second World War, the government established the Canada Council to fund the arts, which has become the major patron of all forms of creative endeavor in Canada. Government support, as well as strict regulations mandating a specified amount of Canadian content in the media, has produced an artistic atmosphere that encourages creativity over marketability. This atmosphere pervades all areas of art and culture, from television and films to literature and publishing.

Canada has a colorful literary tradition. Margaret Lawrence, Margaret Atwood, Robertson Davies, and Mordechai Richler rank among the most influential Anglophone authors. Leading Francophone authors include Gabrielle Roy and Jacques Ferron. In visual arts, Canadians are most proud of a school of painters known as "The Group of Seven." This school, whose exclusive subject was Canadian landscape, is credited with a strictly Canadian style of painting, a "pictoral nationalism." With the support of the National Film Board, Canadian filmmakers such as Harry Rasky and Bill Mason are world leaders in producing documentaries. Canada also has a number of world-class dance troupes, orchestras, and repertory theaters. Numerous well-known musicians claim Canada as their home, including Joni Mitchell, Anne Murray, Paul Anka, Gordon Lightfoot, Bryan Adams, and Corey Hart.

HISTORY

Canada's early history was dominated by rivalry between France and Britain. In 1497, John Cabot reached Newfoundland and claimed for Britain a large portion of the Atlantic seaboard. Cabot was followed by the French explorer Jacques Cartier, who landed on the Gaspe Peninsula in 1534 and claimed it for France.

While the British settled along the coast, the French pushed rapidly into the interior, and for more than a century Canada was a French colony. The founder and settler of French Canada was Samuel de Champlain, who founded Quebec City in 1608 and established a number of other settlements along the Bay of Fundy and the shores of the St. Lawrence River. Explorers, traders, and missionaries, including Marquette, Joliet, and La Salle, extended French influence in "New France."

Following the early years of settlement, French and English pioneers engaged in the highly competitive fur trade. Canada's political shape began to emerge from the Battle of the Plains of Abraham at Quebec, where the British defeated the French in 1759 and took over the French colonies in North America. The memory of that event still has a strong emotional appeal for French-Canadians. Although New France came under British control, it was permitted to retain its religion and civil code. Today, by means of the Meech Lake Constitutional Accord (subject to provincial ratification), Canada continues its quest to develop a constitutional formula that will satisfy the aspirations of French-speaking Quebec.

During the American Revolution, French and British colonists in Canada rebuffed the overtures of American leaders and chose British rule over independence in association with the United States. A U.S. raid on Quebec was unsuccessful. In the War of 1812, U.S.-British rivalry in North America again resulted in the invasion of Canada.

Several events accelerated the union of the British colonies in Canada into a new nation.

First, the political uprisings of 1837 in both English Upper Canada and French Lower Canada led to the creation of local governments and to greater citizen participation in government.

Second, at the end of the American Civil War, it was feared that the United States might turn against British North America.

Finally, the expansion of the American West and the slower settlement of the Canadian West encouraged the development of a Canadian transcontinental railroad and the perception among eastern Canadian political leaders that a Canadian federation from the Atlantic to the Pacific had to be achieved if western Canada was to avoid absorption by the United States.

The British North America Act of 1867 created the new nation of Canada, comprising four provinces—Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. It provided for a federal union

and for a parliamentary system of government. Six other provinces eventually entered the confederation; the last was Newfoundland in 1949.

GOVERNMENT

Canada is a constitutional monarchy with a bilingual federal system, a parliamentary form of government, and strong democratic traditions. Although in 1982 Canada consolidated its written constitution, many of the country's legal and parliamentary practices are based on unwritten custom, as is the case in the United Kingdom. On the other hand, the federal structure—uniting the 10 provinces in a federal government—resembles the U.S. federal system. The constitution provides for a federal government to which are reserved specific powers, such as those relating to defense, trade and commerce, banking and currency, criminal law, postal services, and certain taxes, as well as all powers not expressly granted to the provinces. The provinces have authority to administer and legislate on such matters as education, property laws, health, and local affairs generally. The 1982 Charter of Rights guarantees basic rights in many areas.

Queen Elizabeth II, as Queen of Canada, serves as a symbol of the nation's unity. She appoints the governor general on the advice of the prime minister of Canada, usually for a 5-year term.

Canada's parliament consists of an appointive Senate and an elective House of Commons. In practice, legislative power rests with the Commons (295 members). Senate members are appointed by the governor general on the advice of the prime minister. Commons members are elected at least every 5 years but also at any time that the prime minister advises the governor general to dissolve the House.

The cabinet is led by the prime minister, who is the leader of the political party in power. The cabinet remains in office as long as it retains majority support in the Commons on major issues.

Criminal law, a federal prerogative, is uniform throughout the nation and is based largely on British law. Civil law is based on the common law of England, except in Quebec, which has retained its own civil code patterned after that of France. Justice is administered by federal, provincial, and municipal courts.

Government in the provinces is patterned much along the lines of the central government. Each province is governed by a premier and a single, elected legislative chamber. A lieutenant-governor, appointed by the governor general, represents the crown in each province.

Principal Government Officials

Chief of State—Queen Elizabeth II
Governor General—Madame Jeanne Sauve
Prime Minister—Brian Mulroney
Secretary of State for External Affairs—Joe Clark

Ambassador to the United States—Derek Burney
Ambassador to the United Nations—Yves Fortier

Canada maintains an embassy in the United States at 501 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, D.C. 20001 (tel. 202–682–1740).

Canadian consulates in the United States

Atlanta, Georgia	(404) 577–6810
Boston, Massachusetts	(617) 262–3760
Buffalo, New York	(716) 852–1247
Chicago, Illinois	(312) 427–1031
Cleveland, Ohio	(216) 771–0150
Dallas, Texas	(214) 992–9806
Detroit, Michigan	(313) 567–2340
Los Angeles, California	(213) 687–7432
Minneapolis, Minnesota	(612) 333–4641
New York, New York	(212) 586–2400
San Francisco, California	(415) 981–2670
Seattle, Washington	(206) 443–1777

POLITICAL CONDITIONS

The three national parties in Canada are the Progressive Conservatives, the Liberals, and the New Democratic Party (NDP), a Social Democratic party formed in 1961. Since 1921, either the Liberal or the Conservative Party has controlled the Canadian Government. Both are broadbased parties of the center that attempt to win support from all groups and regions of the country. In federal elections, the Liberals had relied in the past on strong support from Quebec. However, in the 1984 and 1988 federal elections, the Progressive Conservatives took the large majority of seats in that province. The Conservatives traditionally have been strong in the western provinces. Heavily populated Ontario shifts between the two parties and often plays a decisive role in elections.

The Progressive Conservative Party won 169 seats in the House of Commons in the November 21, 1988 election and again formed a majority government with representation from every region in the nation. The Liberal Party, the official opposition, won 83 seats; the NDP, 43.

Quebec's status remains a serious political issue in Canada. In 1980, the Parti Quebecois sought, through a referendum, a mandate from the people of Quebec to negotiate a new status, "sovereignty-association," involving political independence with continued economic association with the rest of

Canada's Provinces and Territories

Atlantic Provinces: Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick. *Area*—541,180 sq. km. (208,146 sq. mi.). *Population* (1988)—2.3 million. *Ethnic groups*—predominantly British, French. *Industry*—fishing, agriculture, mining, manufacturing.

Quebec: *Area*—1,356,790 sq. km. (523,857 sq. mi.). *Population* (1988)—6.7 million. *Ethnic groups*—predominantly French, British, other European groups. *Industry*—agriculture, mining, manufacturing, hydroelectric power.

Ontario: *Area*—891,190 sq. km. (345,420 sq. mi.). *Population* (1988)—9.5 million. *Ethnic groups*—British, French, other European groups. *Industry*—manufacturing, agriculture, mining.

Prairie provinces: Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta. *Area*—1.77 million sq. km. (680,757 sq. mi.). *Population* (1988)—4.5 million. *Ethnic groups*—British, other European groups. *Industry*—agriculture, cattle, petroleum and natural gas, mining, manufacturing.

British Columbia: *Area*—934,125 sq. km. (359,279 sq. mi.). *Population* (1988)—3 million. *Ethnic groups*—British, other European, Chinese, indigenous Indian. *Industry*—forestry, manufacturing, fishing, mining, agriculture.

Territories: Northwest Territory and Yukon Territory. *Area*—3.79 million sq. km. (1.45 million sq. mi). *Population* (1988)—72,300. *Ethnic groups*—British, indigenous Indian, Inuit. *Industry*—mining.

Canada. Sixty percent of Quebec voters rejected the proposal.

In 1982, Queen Elizabeth ceremonially turned over full responsibility for Canada's constitution, the amended British North America Act of 1867, to the Canadian Parliament. Patriation of the constitution was made possible when the federal government and nine provinces agreed on a Charter of Rights and an amending formula. Only Quebec did not concur. However, Quebec's current Liberal government has strongly endorsed the 1987 Meech Lake Constitutional Accord that would bring the province into Canada's federal constitutional framework while recognizing Quebec as a "distinct society." The accord must still be ratified by two provinces (Manitoba and New Brunswick) by June 1990 before it takes effect.

Federal-provincial relations are a central feature of Canadian politics. Quebec wishes to preserve and strengthen its distinct nature. Western provinces desire more control over their abundant natural resources, especially energy reserves. Industrialized central Canada is concerned with other aspects of economic development, while the Atlantic provinces have resisted federal claims to fishing and mineral rights off their shores. Canadians have responded to these differing regional needs by strengthening both their confederation and the fundamental democratic principles essential to a balanced federal-provincial political system.

Changing of the guard ceremony in front of Parliament, Ottawa.

ECONOMY

Canada ranks seventh in the world in gross domestic product and is one of the world's largest producers of a wide variety of minerals. The mineral industry has been a major factor in Canada's economic development. Canada's lakes have more than 50% of the world's fresh water, and 75% of Canada's power needs are met by hydroelectric energy.

The year 1988 marked the sixth consecutive year that Canada held its position as one of the strongest economies in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Fueled by strong investment in plant and equipment, Canada's economy grew by 5%. This performance not only surpassed 1987's growth rate of 4.5% but was the highest rate since 1984. The spectacular growth of Canadian manufacturing, particularly since the 1950s, has transformed the nation from a rural, agricultural society into one primarily industrial and urban. Industry is now the leading segment of the nation's economy, employing one-third of the work force.

Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries

Agriculture's contribution to the Canadian economy is very similar to that of the United States, averaging less than 4% of gross national product and employment in the late 1980s. Agricultural exports are less than 10% of all trade; led by wheat and barley to third markets and by pork and horticultural products to the United States. The United States is Canada's leading market, taking nearly one-third of all food exports, dominated by pork and horticultural products. Conversely, Canada is the United States' second largest market, primarily importing fresh fruits and vegetables and livestock products.

Forest covers 49%, or 4.5 million square kilometers (1.7 million sq. mi.) of Canada's total land area. Forest product exports, including pulp and paper, represent about 15% of Canada's total export trade with nearly two-thirds going to the United States. Canada is the world's leading producer of newsprint, accounting for 40% of global output. The United States imports nearly 75% of Canada's total newsprint production.

Commercial fisheries provide an annual catch of about 1.4 million metric tons (1.54 million tons), and some 70% of the catch is exported.

Minerals

Canada ranks first in the world in mineral exports and third in mineral production, after the United States and the Soviet Union. It is the world's largest producer of zinc, potash, uranium, and nickel; the second largest producer of asbestos, silver, titanium, gypsum, and sulfur; and a leading producer of molybdenum, aluminum, cobalt, gold, lead, copper, iron, and platinum. Mineral deposits are located in all regions.

Canada is a major producer of hydroelectricity, oil, and gas and, unlike most of its industrial partners, is a net exporter of energy (primarily gas and electricity). Canada's exports and imports of oil currently are in approximate balance. Nevertheless, crude petroleum is the largest single component of Canada's minerals output. In 1988, Canadian oil reserves were about 6.8 billion barrels, including arctic reserves. Canada produces annually more than 500 million barrels of oil and about 3.5 trillion cubic feet of natural gas annually. The United States imports about 6% of its natural gas requirements from Canada.

Foreign Trade

In total volume of trade, Canada ranks seventh in the world, after the United States, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Japan, and Italy.

The value of U.S.-Canadian merchandise trade for 1988 was over $157 billion, more than between any other two countries in the world. Also in 1988 about 25% of all U.S. merchandise exports went to Canada, and Canada supplied about 22% of total U.S. merchandise imports.

Almost one-third of U.S.-Canadian trade occurs under the terms of the U.S.-Canada Automotive Agreement (Auto Pact), which provides for free

trade between the two nations in cars, trucks, and auto parts. Under the 1965 agreement, two-way trade in automotive products rose from $715 million in 1964 to $23 billion by 1978. In 1980–81, the two-way trade declined to about $18 billion, but it rose to $51.5 billion in 1988.

Foreign Investment

The investment relationship between the United States and Canada is extremely close. The United States is the largest foreign investor in Canada. In late 1988, the stock of U.S. direct investment in Canada was estimated at over $66 billion, or about 80% of total foreign direct investment in Canada. Similarly, Canada's investment exposure in the United States currently is quite substantial. At the end of 1988, the stock of Canadian direct investment in the United States stood at $35 billion (includes investments from Canadian holding companies located in the Netherlands), or 20% of total foreign direct investment in the United States.

U.S. investment in Canada primarily is in the mining and smelting industries, petroleum, chemicals, the manufacturing of machinery and transportation equipment, and finance. Canadian investment in the United States is concentrated in petroleum, real estate, manufacturing, and trade.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

In Canada's early days as a nation, its foreign affairs were conducted by the United Kingdom. By 1909, the Canadian drive for autonomy led to the creation of a Department of External Affairs. After World War I, Canadian representatives signed the Treaty of Versailles and began to conduct a truly independent foreign policy.

World War II gave considerable impetus to Canadian participation in world affairs. Canada took an active role in the creation of the United Nations, which it has strongly supported. It has contributed troops to UN forces in Korea, the Middle East, the Congo, Yemen, Namibia, and Cyprus. In addition to its peacekeeping activities, Canada has assumed a prominent role in the United Nations in disarmamant discussions, environmental activities, law of the sea negotiations, human rights issues, North-South issues, and world food problems. Canada also continues to be a strong supporter of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and its goals.

A member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) since its inception, Canada shares responsibility, with the United States and other allies, for the North Atlantic Treaty area. Due to its membership in NATO, Canada is an active participant in discussions stemming from the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Two other international organizations of special interest to Canada are the Commonwealth—an association of former British colonies that share similarities of language, customs, and institutions—and La Francophonie—an association of French-speaking countries that include France and former French colonies. Since about 24% of all Canadians regard French as their mother tongue, Canada has sought to broaden and strengthen ties with La Francophonie.

Canadian economic assistance to developing countries totals more than $2 billion annually. The official channel for government overseas aid programs is the Canadian International Development Agency. Canada also contributes substantially to international and regional development organizations and is a major supplier of food aid.

U.S.-CANADIAN RELATIONS

Canada views its relationship with the United States as crucial to a wide range of Canadian interests. The bilateral relationship is varied and complex. Although

Travel Notes

Customs: Documentation, passports, and visas are not required of U.S. citizens visiting Canada as tourists, but they must be prepared to show evidence of citizenship, such as a U.S. birth certificate, or naturalization certificate.

Climate and clothing: Variety of climate, scenery, and people are the major sources of Canada's popularity with vacationers.

Currency: The unit of currency is the Canadian dollar. Canadian and U.S. dollars are fully convertible at banks and at most border crossing points. The rate of exchange varies daily (avg. 1988 was C$1 = U.S.$0.81).

Transportation: Travel to Canada may be made by automobile, bus, train, and plane. Dozens of major border crossing points are provided from the U.S.

Tourist attractions: For most of Canada, winter offers diverse cold-weather sports and activities—skiing, skating, curling, and ice hockey. Winter carnivals also are popular; the biggest is the Quebec Winter Carnival. One also can view some of the world's finest professional ice hockey at this time. In the late spring and summer, many people move to cottages by lakes and streams, while others prefer to swim, fish, sail, motor, and golf. Many open-air festivals take place, and each Province and Territory has its own events.

Newfoundland's annual regatta is one of the oldest sporting events in North America. Prince Edward Island features Country Days and Old Home Week, with music, agricultural and handicraft displays, harness racing, and parades. Events in Nova Scotia include the Annapolis Apple Blossom Festival, the Halifax Tattoo, and the Highland Games. New Brunswick provides a variety of festivities related to its fishing industry, such as the Shediac Lobster Festival, the Richibukto Scallop Festival, and the Campbellton Salmon Festival.

Quebec has many attractions, including Man and His World (formerly Expo '67) and the Sherbrooke Festival des Cantons, featuring Quebecois shows, horsepulling, soirees, and gourmet cuisine. In Ontario, drama festivals in Stratford and Niagara-on-the-Lake are major attractions.

Events in western Canada tend to reflect its cultural diversity and pioneer heritage. They include the National Ukrainian Festival in Manitoba and the Oktoberfest in Vancouver, British Columbia. Saskatchewan has its Pioneer Days, and Alberta has its Indian Days and the popular Calgary Stampede, one of the greatest rodeo shows in the world.

Canada is abundantly endowed with natural playgrounds. The federal government maintains 34 national parks, most of them with campsites and other basic camping facilities, and each province maintains a number of similar parks. In addition, 96 national historic parks and sites are maintained by the government of Canada.

Time zones in Canada correspond to those in the United States, with the exception of Atlantic time (1 hour ahead of eastern standard time), which is observed in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island; and Newfoundland time (1 hour and 30 minutes ahead of eastern standard time), which is observed only in the Province of Newfoundland.

National holidays: Most Canadian holidays do not occur on the same date annually but rather are set to fall on Mondays. Canadian holidays include Victoria Day in May, Canada Day in July, and the Fete Nationale, which is observed only in Quebec, in June. Many municipalities observe a civic holiday in late July or August.

Virtually all U.S. products are available in Canada. Canadian telephone facilities are excellent, and direct dialing is possible between the U.S. and Canada. Public transportation, education, and health services generally are excellent.

Further information about Canada is available from the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C. and Canadian consulates in 15 U.S. cities.

differences inevitably occur occasionally, the basic characteristics of Canadian-U.S. relations are close friendship and cooperation in a wide range of fields.

The two countries cooperate closely in resolving transboundary environmental issues, an area of increasing importance in the bilateral relationship. A principal instrument of this cooperation is the International Joint Commission (IJC). Established in 1909, the IJC is a unique approach to international environmental cooperation. The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreements of 1972 and 1978, aimed at preserving and enhancing the water quality of the Great Lakes, are historic examples of joint cooperation in controlling transboundary water pollution. The United States and Canada frequently consult on possible approaches to dealing with the difficult problem of transboundary air pollution.

The United States and Canada also recently have resolved several major issues involving fisheries. By common agreement, the two countries submitted a Gulf of Maine boundary dispute to the ICJ in 1981; both accepted the Court's October 12, 1984 ruling. On January 28, 1985, the United States and Canada signed the Pacific Salmon Treaty, the culmination of years of difficult negotiations aimed at rebuilding the Pacific salmon resource.

U.S.-Canadian economic relations provide a number of examples of cooperative efforts, such as the Auto Pact, which created a largely integrated two-country market for automobiles, and defense economic arrangements, which diminish obstacles to trade and technology exchange and encourage a balance of trade in defense related areas.

Investment and trade issues are a constant feature of U.S.-Canadian relations. This is to be expected, given the enormous flows of capital between the countries and the fact that each is the other's most important market.

The U.S.-Canada trading relationship has been further enhanced by the bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA) that became effective on January 1, 1989. Over a 10-year period, the FTA will remove all tariffs and virtually all import and export restrictions; resolve many longstanding bilateral irritants; and liberalize rules in several areas including agriculture, services, energy, financial services, investment, and government procurement.

Energy and transportation issues also need constant attention, some of which have caused differences in the past, but, in most cases, they have been successfully resolved or managed.

DEFENSE

U.S. defense arrangements with Canada are more extensive and intimate than with any other country. The Permanent Joint Board on Defense, established in 1940, provides policy-level consultation on bilateral defense matters. The United States and Canada share NATO mutual security commitments. As the only other non-European ally, Canada contributes forces to NATO commands in Europe and the North Atlantic. In addition, U.S. and Canadian military forces since 1958 have cooperated on continental air defense within the framework of the North American Aerospace Defense Command, an integrated bilateral military command exercising operational control over U.S. and Canadian air defense forces and also providing early warning information on possible air and missile attack on North America. Canada and the United States work closely in defense research and production.

Principal U.S. Officials

Ambassador—Edward N. Ney
Deputy Chief of Mission—Dwight N. Mason
Minister-Counselor for Political Affairs—Stephen Buck
Minister-Counselor for Economic Affairs—Lawrence P. Taylor
Minister-Counselor for Public Affairs—James P. Thurber
Minister-Counselor for Commercial Affairs—George Mu.

The U.S. Embassy in Canada is located at 100 Wellington Street, Ottawa, (tel. 613–238–5335). There are U.S. consulates general in the following Canadian cities: Calgary, Alberta (tel. 403–266–8962); Halifax, Nova Scotia (tel. 902–429–2480); Montreal, Quebec (tel. 514–281–1886); Quebec City, Quebec (tel. 418–692–2095); Toronto, Ontario (tel. 416–595–1700); and Vancouver, British Columbia (tel. 604–685–4311). ■

Further Information

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Published by the United States Department of State • Bureau of Public Affairs
Office of Public Communication • Editorial Division • Washington, D.C. • June 1989
Editor: Juanita Adams

Department of State Publication 7769
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